

CONCORDIA COUNCIL ON STUDENT LIFE

Minutes of a Meeting held in Room AD-128, Loyola Campus, at 4:00 P.M. on Monday,
3 November 1980

- PRESENT: Dr. R. Breen, Chairman; Prof. R. Allison, Mr. D. Arfin, Mr. B. Counihan, Mr. L. Burogano, Ms. S. Crompton, Dr. E. Enos, Mr. M. Flynn, Ms. A. Kerby, Mr. P. Mehta, Mr. R. Philip, Mr. J.A. Sproule, Ms. D. Brundage (Secretary)
- ABSENT: Ms. M.E. Diacoumacos, Mr. A. Lajoie, Prof. J. Macaluso, Ms. D. Parent, Mr. J. Revay
- GUESTS: Mr. D. Boisvert, Ms. N. Cullen, Ms. Karen McCarthy, Ms. E. Morey

Chairman's Remarks

- 80.11.1.0 A quorum of members being present, the Chairman opened the meeting and requested approval of the Agenda. Ms. Crompton stated that she wished to include a student proposal under the item "New Business". It was agreed that this proposal need not be added to the formal Agenda, but would be considered when the appropriate item came up for discussion. Dean Counihan then MOVED and Ms. Crompton SECONDED that the Agenda be approved. MOTION CARRIED.
- 80.11.1.1 Mr. Burogano noted that the Agenda of the previous meeting had not been approved at that meeting. The Agenda for the meeting of 6 October 1980 was thereupon unanimously approved retroactively.

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of 6 October 1980

- 80.11.2.0 Dean Flynn MOVED and Dean Counihan SECONDED that the Minutes of the meeting of 6 October 1980 be approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Information Session - International Students

- 80.11.3.0 The Chairman introduced Council's guest, Ms. E. Morey, by noting the importance to members of being informed as to what is being done in the various student services' areas. To that end, he went on, Ms. Morey had been asked to speak on her area of expertise, international students.
- 80.11.3.1 Ms. Morey observed that there are three major aspects to her work with international students: preparing those who are planning to come to Concordia in advance; orienting them to the University upon their arrival, and keeping them informed of changing circumstances, particularly with regard to Immigration laws, throughout their University career.
- 80.11.3.2 The International Students' Handbook (CCSL-80-11-D2) had been developed in conjunction with Mr. W. Loucks of the Loyola Campus. Its intent was to let potential international students know what to expect, not only from Concordia, but from the wider Montreal community. The handbook was sent to all international students who had confirmed admission to the University. Some seventy of the "Arrival Notice" cards included with the handbooks were returned to the Sir George Williams Campus. The reaction to the handbook had been favourable and certain improvements are planned for next year.

According to Ms. Morey, there are presently 1,812 visa students at Concordia, up some 13% from last year's figure of 1,598. For the Sir George Williams Campus, the figures are 1,170 for 1980/81, an increase from 1,002 in 1979/80. The largest group come from Asia, particularly Hong Kong; then come the Middle Easterners (Iran), the Africans (Nigeria), the Europeans (Greece) and the South Americans (Venezuela).

- 80.11.3.3 When international students arrive in Montreal, they are met at the airport by representatives of the Canadian Bureau of International Education (CBIE) and of an organization of the Provincial Government. On occasion, members of Concordia's various international clubs also meet students arriving from the appropriate point of origin. A letter to these students from the international clubs had been included with the handbook.

This Fall, orientation of international students took place as described in the pamphlet, International Students Orientation 1980 (CCSL 80-11-D3). Again, the feedback on the three-day sessions had been encouraging, although the international clubs have recommended that the program be scheduled for a later date next year. The workshops on Immigration policies, the Montreal Police Department and the Human Rights' Commission were thought to be particularly valuable.

- 80.11.3.4 Once international students have arrived at Concordia and have been oriented, it is important that they be kept informed of changes in the Immigration law. To this end, a booklet has been produced and distributed to the students and, as further changes occur, an attempt will be made to have pertinent bulletins published in The Link. The presence of Immigration officials on the Sir George Williams Campus during the past year has been of great assistance to the students.

In order to better ascertain the needs of international students during their years at Concordia, a committee has been set up to study the results of a random sample survey which will be conducted. In addition, documents are being collected from the various embassies which will provide information with regard to current conditions in the countries from which the students came. Of particular interest would be data on the job opportunities which might be available once a student returns home.

Finances are a cause of concern to many international students. CBIE makes some money available, as does the Provincial Government (see document headed "Aide Fonctuelle, Etablissement d'enseignement du Demandeur", CCSL 80-11-D5). The Emergency Loan Fund provides some relief and the University Chaplains, as well as some community groups, have been helpful insofar as lodging and food are concerned. Other problems require academic or personal counselling.

The international clubs, of course, are one vehicle by which the culture shock which some of these students experience may be lessened; however, there is too little communication between them. In an attempt to improve this situation, joint monthly meetings have been organized. Two programs, an international film festival and an international food day, are being planned. In addition, a reception will be held at which the executives of the clubs will have the opportunity to meet Dr. Breen.

80.11.3.5 In response to Dr. Breen's query, Ms. Morey said that international students experience both practical and social problems. Insofar as the practical is concerned, even when sufficient funds are available to them, some students have trouble budgeting wisely and can run into trouble. On the social level, there is a tendency for some groups to ghettoize; others find it difficult to set academic and social priorities; some have problems adapting to Western morés. Complications can arise when an international student, hoping to achieve citizenship, marries a Canadian.

Mr. Sproule spoke of the academic problems with which many international students are faced. Their reading and study skills are often not up to standard and programs which are designed for Canadian students do not adequately remedy the deficiency. Conceivably, courses of a remedial nature may be needed.

80.11.3.6 According to Dean Counihan, there are some 642 visa students on the Loyola Campus. Eight international clubs are operating, but on the Loyola Campus, they are related to CUSA, rather than to the Dean of Students' Office. Ms. Morey pointed out that because of the number of international students in Continuing Education programs, the figures quoted for visa students are somewhat misleading as to the amount of service which is actually provided.

80.11.3.7 Dean Flynn pointed out that every year more international students remain in Montreal during the Summer months and, because University activities are curtailed during that period, many need something to occupy their leisure hours. He is working with Mr. Philip to determine what can be done to develop a suitable athletic program for some of these students. In response to Mr. Burogano's suggestion that they might become involved in University-sponsored research projects for which they would receive credit, Dean Counihan noted that provision for the granting of credit for para-academic activities already exists. It might be, however, that the possibility needs particular promotion to international students.

80.11.3.8 Ms. Kerby stated that an increasing number of international students are bringing their families with them and that counselling specific to this situation - education of the children, for instance - is often required.

80.11.3.9 On behalf of the Council, Dr. Breen thanked Ms. Morey for her presentation. He went on to observe that Concordia has been particularly preoccupied with international students, as it has been with adult education. Although the University has done much in these two areas and has obviously been meeting the needs that precipitated these activities, no documentation of what is actually being done has been put together. However, Concordia is taking very seriously a request from the Government that the universities provide data on the subject of adult education and will respond fully. It would be useful if some such similar research could be undertaken with regard to Concordia's activities on behalf of international students.

Reports from Directors

80.11.4.1 Dean Counihan reported that on 14 November, representatives from the Ministry of Education will be at the Loyola Campus to make a presentation on the monies available from the Government for graduate students. This is particularly important to Concordia students who have not been getting as much of this money as is possible.

Mr. Counihan went on to note that of the visits to the Immigration officers when they were on the Sir George Williams Campus, some 400 were Loyola students. It might, in the future, be worthwhile to arrange for the Immigration people to operate at the Loyola Campus as well.

Ms. N. Cullen is completing a report which will be made available to Council on the results of the Loyola Health Services' needs assessment survey which was conducted last Spring. She also has available a slide show which was put together in connection with a workshop on the Loyola Health Services and will be pleased to make a presentation to Council at any time. A new part-time nurse, Ms. Harcia Hunter, has recently been hired for this service.

Finally, Mr. Counihan stated that a search is underway for a new International Student Advisor on the Loyola Campus.

- 80.11.4.2 Mr. Sproule talked about the extent of on-campus recruiting which has become almost more than the facilities will bear. An increased number of companies are operating and some are requesting additional time. Comments by representatives of the companies as to the calibre of students being interviewed are very favourable.

The demand for places in the effective reading program has exceeded all expectations. The fifteen openings on the Loyola Campus are always fully booked and expansion of the facility is imperative. The hiring of an additional full-time reading training specialist to supplement Mrs. Osborne's efforts is also required.

The Guidance Services' program of workshops and study groups for the second term has been finalized and a schedule will be available shortly.

- 80.11.4.3 Dr. Enos referred to his written report, CCSL-80-11-D6, and added that the athletic facilities in the Victoria School on the Sir George Williams Campus may well be available by the beginning of the second term. He is also optimistic with regard to Concordia's possible use of the Olympic facility.

- 80.11.4.4 Dean Flynn announced that the annual arts and crafts show would be held during the last week of November on the mezzanine of the Hall Building. Fifteen percent of last year's profits went to the Emergency Loan Fund; this year a donation will be made to the Handicapped Information Centre.

The closing off of the mezzanine for study purposes during a two-week period in December last year proved to be very successful and will be repeated this year.

Pressure on the Dean of Students' Office, Sir George Williams Campus, since June 1, 1980, has been very heavy as evidenced by the figures contained in the document circulated by Dean Flynn headed, "Traffic and Telephone Statistics" (CCSL 80-11-D7). In particular, he noted the large number of contacts regarding financial aid. The number of loans processed and the amount of money involved has risen steadily over the last few years and, were additional funds available, Dean Flynn said, he would hire an additional employee to work in the financial aid area. This is particularly

important since there is no back-up available for either the Financial Aid Officer or her secretary. Mr. Arfin pointed out that the months under discussion are probably the busiest of the year and asked if Dean Flynn were contemplating the hiring of a permanent full-time employee or a part-time employee for that period only. In response, Dean Flynn stated that the survey would be continued for the balance of the year so that an accurate assessment of the need could be made. He also added that if the Dean's Office were to relocate, a good deal of extraneous traffic might be eliminated which would relieve pressure on the other clerical staff.

Dean Flynn suggested that the CUSA members of Council might want to check on the academic standing of their executives. A number of students have been taking part in activities for which they are academically ineligible.

- 80.11.4.5 Mr. Burogano enquired as to whether or not it would be possible for the Graduate Students' Association to repatriate a number of programs which are currently being administered by student services. Financial Aid might be one of these. Money would have to be provided to the GSA, of course, if they were to undertake to provide such services. Dr. Breen pointed out that such a transfer of jurisdiction would be in contradiction to the movement towards centralization which has taken place since the merger. It would probably also increase the cost of administering such programs.

Committee Structure

- 80.11.5.0 The Chairman referred to document CCSL 80-11-D1, his proposal as to the possible composition of the Steering and Priorities and Finance Committees, and pointed out an omission in item 1, "Steering Committee". It should read: "Chairman of the Council (Chairman), Two Students from Council, One Director and one Faculty or Staff representative to Council".
- 80.11.5.1 In response to Mr. Burogano's query, Prof. Allison stated that the main task of the Steering Committee was to set the Agenda for Council meetings. In the past, it has also dealt with nominations to Council.
- 80.11.5.2 Dr. Enos then MOVED and Ms. Kerby SECONDED that the composition of the Steering Committee as proposed by the Chairman be approved. MOTION CARRIED.
- 80.11.5.3 Discussion then took place with regard to the proposal for composition of a two-tiered Priorities and Finance Committee. Mr. Arfin asked the Chairman what was meant by "Interested Student Participation" on the Area Budget Development Working Groups and if a specific number of students should not be stipulated. Dr. Breen replied that he felt it wise to leave the extent of student participation as fluid as possible. It is not Council's role to suggest "interested students", but it is up to the various areas to determine how the student participation should be obtained. Dean Flynn then MOVED and Dr. Enos SECONDED that the composition of the two-tiered Priorities and Finance Committee as proposed by the Chairman be approved. MOTION CARRIED.
- 80.11.5.4 With regard to the Steering Committee, Mr. Arfin MOVED and Dean Counihan SECONDED the nomination of Ms. Crompton to fill one student place. Dean Flynn MOVED and Ms. Kerby SECONDED the nomination of Mr. Burogano to the second student place. Since no further names were forthcoming, the Chairman declared nominations closed and Ms. Crompton and Mr. Burogano elected. Ms. Crompton MOVED and Dean Flynn SECONDED the nomination of Dean Counihan to the Directors' place on the committee. Since no further names

were mentioned, the Chairman declared nominations closed and Dean Counihan elected. Ms. Kerby MOVED and Mr. Sproule SECONDED the nomination of Prof. Allison to the faculty or staff place. Since no further names were mentioned, the Chairman declared nominations closed and Prof. Allison elected.

- 80.11.5.5 With regard to the student places on the Regular Standing Committee of the Priorities and Finance Committee, the following nominations were duly MOVED and SECONDED: Mr. L. Burogano, Ms. S. Crompton, Mr. D. Arfin, Mr. P. Mehta, and Mr. J. Revay. Thereupon, Dean Flynn MOVED and Mr. Sproule SECONDED that nominations be closed. MOTION CARRIED. An election by show of hands was conducted, and the following were declared Council's appointees to the student places on the Regular Standing Committee: Mr. Arfin, Ms. Crompton, Mr. Burogano, Mr. Mehta.

New Business

- 80.11.6.0 Ms. Crompton put forward a request she had received from The Link that Council approve a subsidy to the newspaper in order that the classified advertisements service could be offered to students at no charge. Dean Flynn stated that the Dean of Students' Office on the Sir George Williams Campus had subsidized this service for some years; however, in 1980/81, a request for \$800 in the first term alone had been received. The Dean's Office could not provide The Link with more than the \$500 which had been budgeted for the year. The Chairman stated that before Council discussed the wisdom of this request, the Priorities and Finance Committee should study it and make a recommendation.
- 80.11.6.1 Mention of "The Loyola News" and the importance of maintaining a historical record of its years of publication was made. The Chairman suggested that perhaps the Loyola Alumni Association might be interested in earmarking some of its funds for this purpose.
- 80.11.6.2 Mr. Arfin reported that CUSA wishes to assume jurisdiction over and operation of the games room, H-733, on the Sir George Williams Campus. In Mr. Philip's opinion, it would be necessary for an exchange of letters between CUSA and the Athletics' Department to be approved by Council in order to effect a formal transfer of jurisdiction. In principle, Dr. Breen stated, Council members should be informed prior to a meeting of the topics to be discussed at that meeting. This proposal, therefore, should be submitted as a NOTICE OF MOTION for the Agenda of the December meeting. However, the Chairman stated, since time was a factor in this instance, the students could operate the room in the interim before formal approval is given.

There being no further business, Dean Counihan MOVED adjournment of the meeting at 5:50 P.M. MOTION CARRIED.